

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number:

BA 2859

Name:

MD 45 OVER LITTLE FALLS

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended ☒ X

Eligibility Not Recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments:

Reviewer, OPS: Anne E. Bruder

Date: 3 April 2001

Reviewer, NR Program: Peter E. Kurtze

Date: 3 April 2001

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES  
HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY  
MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT No. BA-2859

SHA Bridge No. 3047

Bridge name MD 45 over Little Falls

LOCATION:

Street/Road name and number MD 45 (York Road)

City/town Parkton Vicinity     

County Baltimore

This bridge projects over: Road      Railway      Water X Land     

Ownership: State X County      Municipal      Other     

HISTORIC STATUS:

Is bridge located within a designated historic district? Yes X No     

National Register-listed district      National Register-determined-eligible district     

Locally-designated district      Other     

Name of district Parkton Historic District

BRIDGE TYPE:

Timber Bridge     :

Beam Bridge      Truss -Covered      Trestle      Timber-And-Concrete     

Stone Arch Bridge     

Metal Truss Bridge     

Movable Bridge     :

Swing      Bascule Single Leaf      Bascule Multiple Leaf       
Vertical Lift      Retractable      Pontoon     

Metal Girder     :

Rolled Girder      Rolled Girder Concrete Encased       
Plate Girder      Plate Girder Concrete Encased     

Metal Suspension     

Metal Arch     

Metal Cantilever     

Concrete X:

Concrete Arch X Concrete Slab      Concrete Beam      Rigid Frame     

Other      Type Name

BA-2859

**DESCRIPTION:**

**Describe Setting**

Bridge 3047 carries MD 45 (York Road) over Little Falls in Baltimore County. MD 45 runs in a generally north-south direction over the eastern flowing Little Falls. There is limited residential and commercial development within the area.

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:**

Bridge 3047 is a single span, filled spandrel concrete arch. The length of the bridge is 58 feet. The bridge has a clear span of 42 feet. The bridge has a rise of approximately 20 feet from springline to crown. The spandrel walls are approximately 25 feet high and 8 feet wide. The abutment is 33 feet wide and 25 feet high. The bridge has original open style parapets. The parapets are 2 feet 3 inches high with a 10-inch cap. A w-beam guardrail is bolted to the original parapets. The bridge has a clear roadway width of 31 feet 4 inches, with an overall bridge width of 35 feet 4 inches. According to a 1997 inspection report, the bridge is in fair condition with a sufficiency rating of 66.4.

**Discuss Major Alterations:**

The bridge has undergone no major alterations.

**HISTORY:**

**WHEN** was bridge built (actual date or date range) 1929

This date is: Actual X Estimated     

Source of date: Plaque      Design plans      County bridge files/inspection form X

Other (specify)     

**WHY** was bridge built? Replacement of single lane bridge and widening of county route

**WHO** was the designer? State Roads Commission

**WHO** was the builder? State Roads Commission

**WHY** was bridge altered? N/A.

**Was bridge built as part of an organized bridge-building campaign?**

Yes, this bridge was built as part of the geometric improvements to York Road.

**SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:**

**This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with:**

A - Events X B- Person     

C- Engineering/architectural character X

The bridge was determined eligible by the Interagency Review Committee in June 1996.

**Was bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?**

The improvement of Baltimore County roads and structure most likely resulted from several events that occurred at the start of the twentieth century. The original Good Roads movement was aimed toward improving the primary routes throughout the state, of which York Road can be classified, as well as connecting roads between counties. A later impact of this program included the widening, geometric improvements, regrading of highways, and the construction of new bridges to carry the rebuilt roadways. The rapid increase of motorized vehicles prompted the replacement of existing narrow and weak bridges with wider and stronger structures. The concrete arch bridge replaced a small single span structure

**When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth & development of the area?**

Yes, Bridge 3047 was built as part of the improvements to York Road. Although there had been an existing roadway connecting Baltimore with York, Pennsylvania since 1810, when the Yorktown turnpike was completed, the redesigned modern highway allowed for increased traffic loads and included the features of modern geometric design, allowing both greater speed and safety to the motorist. The associated increase in traffic after the highway was completed allowed for greater regional development, both within the state and in the commercial centers of eastern Pennsylvania. The original improvements to York Road ended in Parkton.

**Is the bridge located in an area that may be eligible for historic designation?**

Yes, this bridge is located in the Parkton Historic District, and is a contributing element to that district.

**Is the bridge a significant example of its type?**

Yes, Bridge 3047 is a significant example of a relatively undeteriorated single span concrete arch bridge built in 1929.

**Does bridge retain integrity of important elements described in Context Addendum?**

Yes, the bridge retains the integrity of its character defining elements; however, guardrails have been added to the parapets. The bridge retains is barrel, arch ring, spandrel walls, parapets, abutments and wingwalls.

**Is bridge a significant example of work of manufacturer, designer and/or engineer?**

Yes, this bridge is a significant example of the structural design and construction work of the State Roads Commission in 1929 to eliminate deficient and dangerous geometric alignments of its highways to meet the demands of modern motorists, and create beautiful structures that could withstand the associated higher loads of modern motorized vehicles.

**Should bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made?**

No, the bridge should not be given further study.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

County inspection/bridge files

SHA inspection/bridge files ☒

Other (list):

State Roads Commission of Maryland

1958 *A History of Road Building in Maryland*. State Roads Commission of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland.

#### **SURVEYOR/SURVEY INFORMATION:**

Date bridge recorded April, 1996

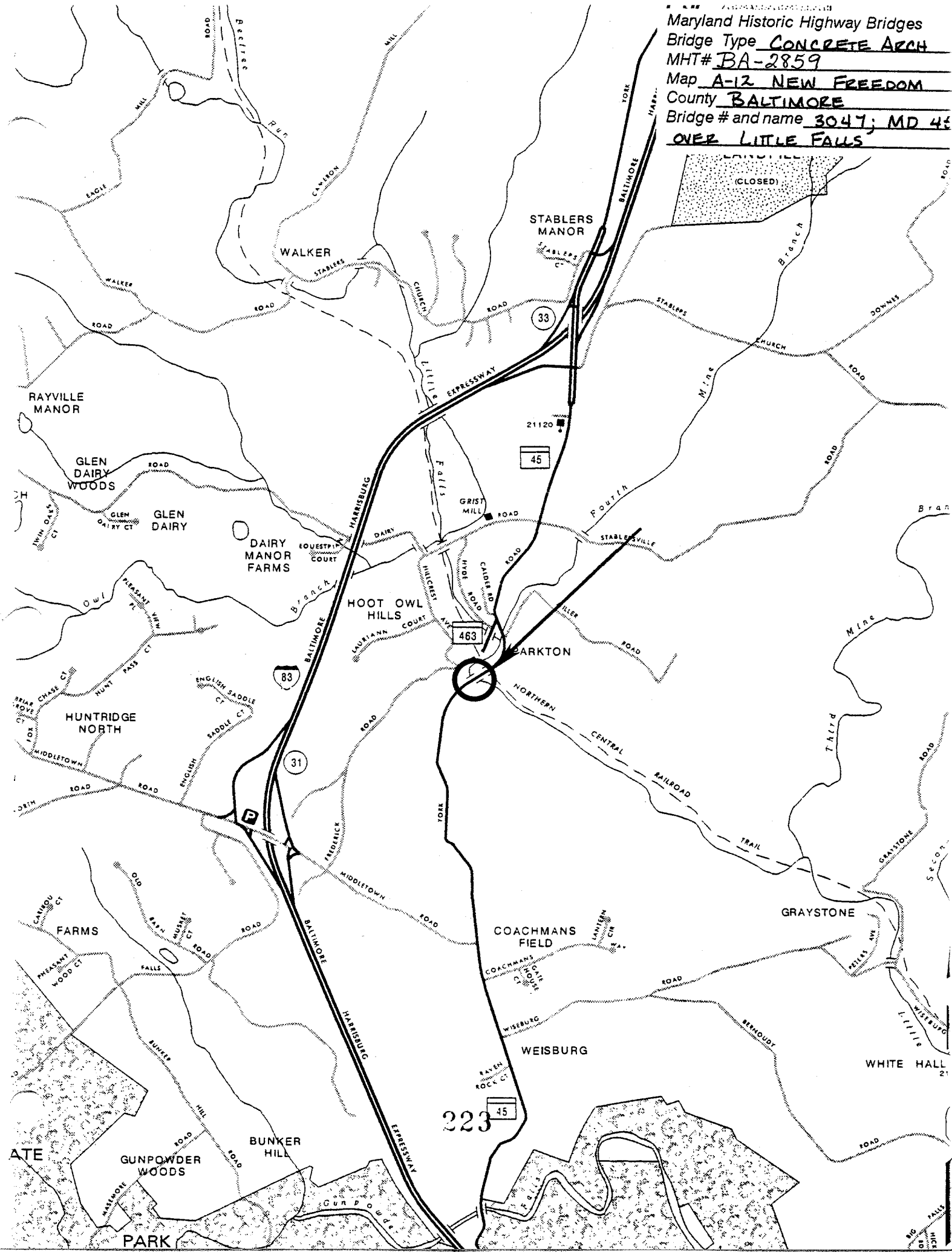
Name of surveyor Stacie Y. Webb

Organization/Address State Highway Administration, 707 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD

Phone number 410-545-8559

Edited by P.A.C. Spero & Company, December 1997

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges  
Bridge Type CONCRETE ARCH  
MHT# BA-2859  
Map A-12 NEW FREEDOM  
County BALTIMORE  
Bridge # and name 3047; MD 45  
OVER LITTLE FALLS





Inventory # BA-2859

Name 3047-MD 45 OVER LITTLE FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description WEST APPROACH LOOKING  
EAST

Number 19 of 324





Inventory # BA-2859

Name 3047-MO45 OVER LITTLE FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MO

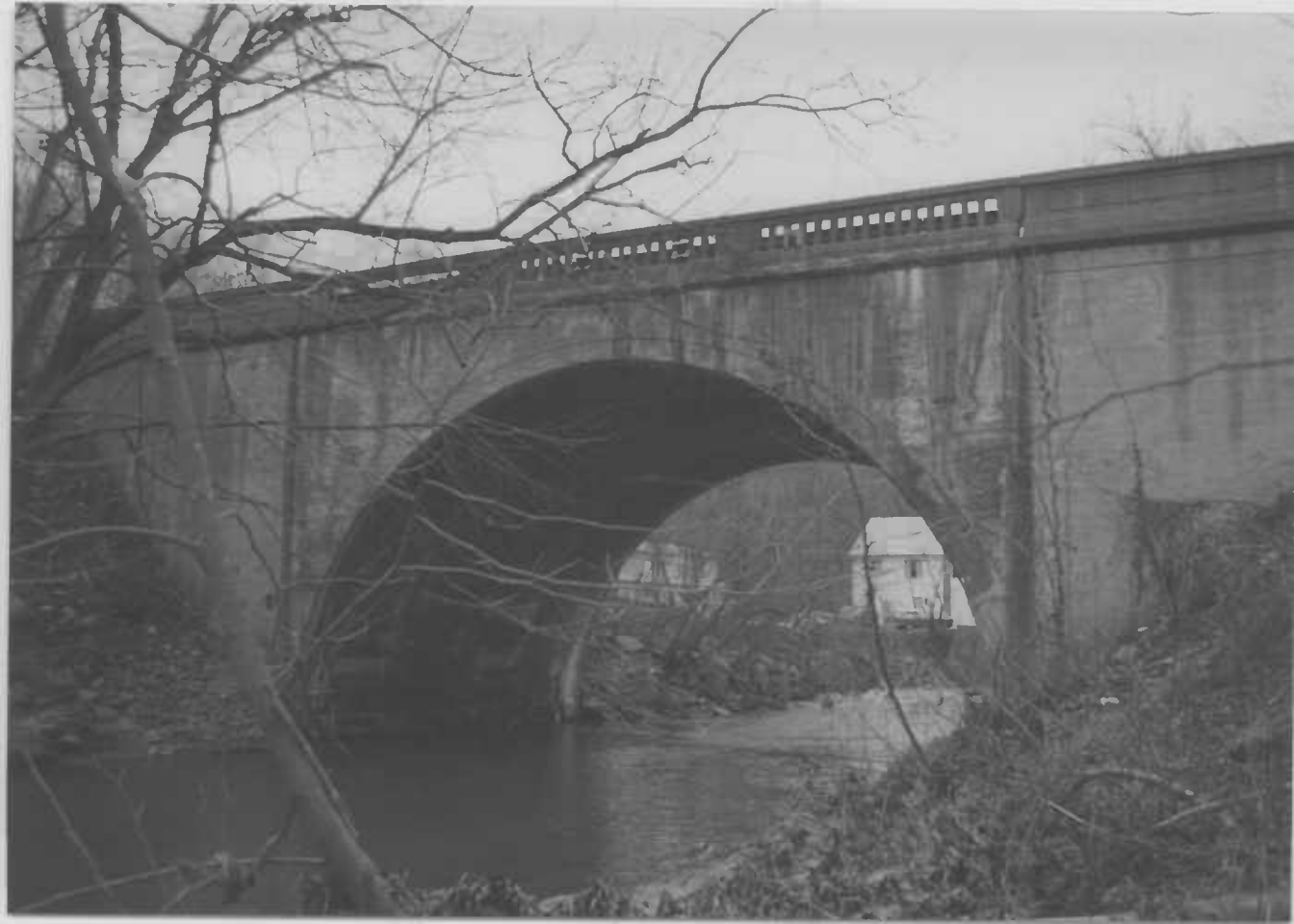
Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description EAST APPROACH LOOKING  
WEST

Number 2 of 32



Inventory # BA-2854

Name 3047-MD 45 OVER LITTLE FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY / MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SWTH ELEVATION LOOKING  
NORTH WEST

Number 3 of 284



Inventory # BA-2859

Name 3047-MD45 OVER LITTLE FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY / MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description NORTH ELEVATION LOOKING  
SOUTH

Number 4 of 32